

# Daycare and Pre-School

The Shoreline Development Code defines and regulates two different types of Day Care Facilities.

A Day Care Facility is defined as follows:

*An establishment for group care of nonresident adults or children, including the following:*

- 1. Adult daycare, such as adult day health centers or social daycare as defined by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services;*
- 2. Nursery schools for children under minimum age for education in public schools;*
- 3. Privately conducted kindergartens or pre-kindergartens when not a part of a public or parochial school; and*
- 4. Programs covering after-school care for school children.*
- 5. Family Child Daycare Homes (as defined by the Washington State Building Code) located in a dwelling.*

The two types of daycare establishments are:

- **Daycare I** – a maximum of 12 adults or children in any 24-hour period; and
- **Daycare II** – over 12 adults or children in any 24-hour period.

**Daycare I** facilities (12 adults or children or less), are permitted R4 – R12 zoning designations as an accessory to residential use. Outdoor play areas must be completely enclosed by at least a 42” high fence, and the hours of operation may be restricted to assure compatibility with surrounding development. No land use permit is required from the City. A building permit from the City is required if the Daycare is to be licensed by the State. *Check State of Washington regulations for more information about licensing.*

**Daycare II** facilities (over 12 adults or children) are only permitted in R8 – R12 zoning designations with a conditional use permit. Public notice to all property owners within 500’ of the project site is required; neighbors are allowed a chance to comment on the proposal. These facilities are also subject to the following regulations:

1. Outdoor play areas shall be completely enclosed by 6-foot high fencing or wall, with no openings except for gates.
2. Outdoor play equipment shall maintain a minimum distance of 20’ from property lines adjoining residential zones.
3. Hours of operation may be restricted to assure compatibility with surrounding development.
4. City of Shoreline building permit is required.
5. A license from the State of Washington is required.

Both types of daycare facilities are allowed in the high density zones (R24 – R48) and all of the commercial and industrial zones without a land use permit from the City. A City of Shoreline building permit may still be required.

**Business Hours: M – F 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦ Permit Processing Hours: M – F 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

*Note: This handout is for informational use only and is not to be substituted for the Shoreline Development Code.* 2/2014

Signs: Daycare Facilities that are accessory to residential use are subject to the signage limitations for home occupations as set forth in the Shoreline Municipal Code Section 20.50.540(B). A City of Shoreline sign permit is required for signage.